

MOST AFFORDABLE HELP IN TOUGH TIMES

There is no structure better prepared to mobilize people in an economic downturn than the Family Policy Council and Community Public Health and Safety Networks. This mature partnership between state and local entities builds community capacity – a hallmark of this system.

It is hard to watch caseloads for government programs increase and state investments diminish. In the midst of this uncertainty, Community Networks continue to identify problems, inform residents, and make sure appropriate help is culturally tailored and provided.

With policy guidance and support from the Family Policy Council, Community Networks have found a formula for success — bringing individuals, communities, service providers and government agencies together to:

- Act on what matters most to the community;
- Share ideas, pool resources, and set high standards;
- Measure results and share the credit.

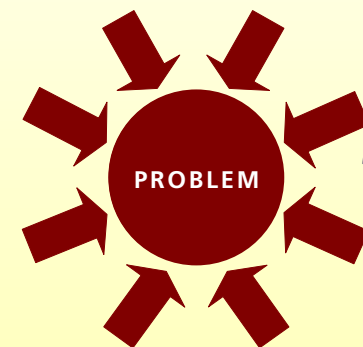
When communities build common ground, conditions begin to change. And with the right support, even the hardest problems get solved. The Family Policy Council and Community Networks are extraordinary at:

RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF HELP AT A LOW COST

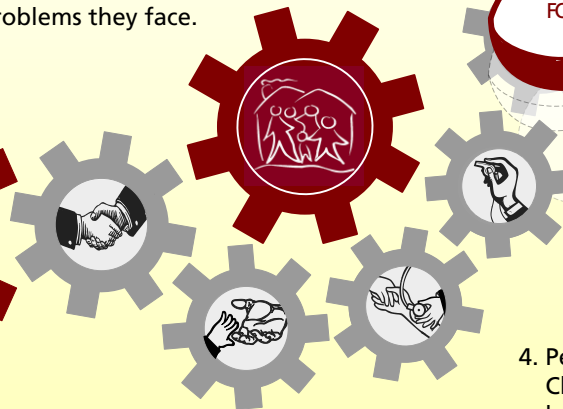
HOW IT WORKS

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

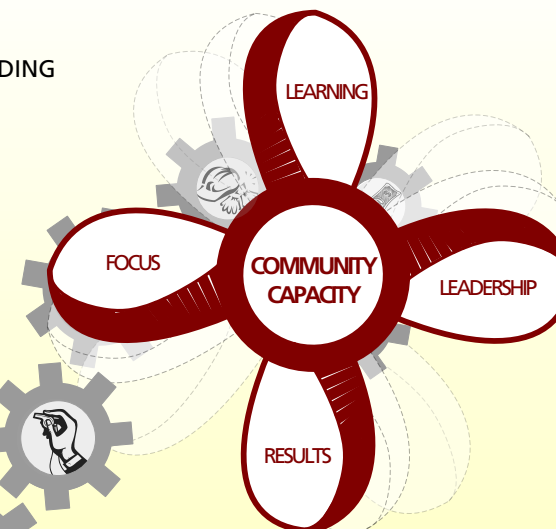
1. Communities come together, overcome denial, and take responsibility for the problems they face.



2. Communities learn the costs and causes of their problems and find ways to improve outcomes with support of the Family Policy Council.



3. Working together, more individuals gain skills, confidence, leadership and determination.



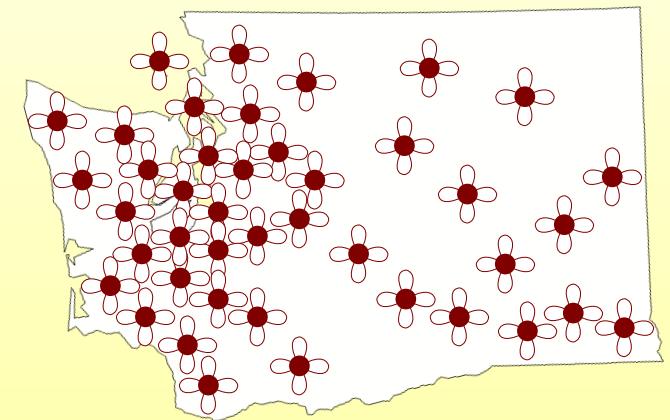
4. People agree to build on small wins. Change in attitude, behavior, and policy becomes more credible and contagious.

5. People ask, “How are we doing now?” They make strong commitments to measure their own outcomes and continuously improve their results.

SELF-PROPELLING SUCCESS

By law, Family Policy Council Community Networks do not operate services. Instead, they help communities cultivate common ground, understanding and improvement, leadership, and measurable results. National research shows this approach works.

With rates of child abuse, dropping out of school and other problems plummeting throughout counties with Community Networks, some say it’s magic. But really, it’s more like a propeller: with just enough torque, it moves us in the right direction!



► **A short timeline:** 1989 State sub-cabinet on family policy formed; 1990 – 1992 Fifty citizen focus groups develop *Family Policy Principles*; 1992 Family Policy Council codified in RCW 70.190; 1994 Community Networks established; 1996 Community Networks develop outcomes based contracts; (over)